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countdown

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Ares I-X takes shape in VAB high bay

WISE equipment arriving at Vandenberg launch site

◆ **Ares I-X Update**: Stacking of the rocket segments is ongoing in High Bay 3 of the VAB. On Tuesday, Super Stack 4 was added onto Super Stack 3. Five super stacks make up the upper stage that will be integrated with the four-segment solid rocket booster first stage on the mobile launch platform.

◆ **ELV Update:** NASA's Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer, or WISE, satellite will survey the entire sky at infrared wavelengths, creating a cosmic clearinghouse of hundreds of millions of objects -- everything from the most luminous galaxies to the nearest stars and to dark and potentially hazardous asteroids. The survey will be the most detailed to date in infrared light, with a sensitivity hundreds of times better than that of its predecessor, the Infrared Astronomical Satellite.

Ground support equipment for WISE arrived at Vandenberg Monday and will be processed in the Astrotech payload processing facility located on north Vandenberg. WISE is scheduled to arrive Aug. 15 to begin processing for launch.

The WISE survey will capture more than a million images, from which hundreds of millions of astronomical objects will be catalogued, providing a vast storehouse of knowledge about the solar system, the Milky Way, and the universe.

■ **NASA News —** NASA's Spitzer Space Telescope is starting a second career and taking its first shots of the cosmos since warming up.

The infrared telescope ran out of coolant May 15, more than five years after launch. It has since warmed to a still-frosty 30 degrees Kelvin (about minus 406 degrees Fahrenheit).

New images taken with two of Spitzer's infrared detector channels, which work at the new warmer temperature, demonstrate the observatory remains a powerful tool for probing the dusty universe.

The first of three images shows a cloud bursting with stars in the Cygnus region of our Milky Way galaxy. A second image shows a nearby dying star – a planetary nebula called NGC 4361 – which has outer layers expanding outward in the rare form of four jets. The last picture is of a classic spiral galaxy called NGC 4145, located approximately 68 million light-years from Earth.

Spitzer officially began its warm science mission on July 27. The new pictures were taken while the telescope was being re-commissioned on July 18 (NGC 4145, NGC 4361) and July 21 (Cygnus).

■ **KEA-45 Space Launch And Transportation Systems Overview —** The KSC Engineering Academy, in conjunction with the Academy of Program/Project and Engineering Leadership, or APPEL, will host Dr. Peter M. Van Wirt with an overview of Space Launch and Transportation Systems.

The overview will include systems design and operations, from customer needs, objectives and requirements to creating operations concepts and infrastructure capabilities. This "fresh look" overview is a process-oriented approach for creating cost-effective concepts to meet customer needs and objectives.

The presentation begins at 3:30 p.m. **today** in the Training Auditorium. NASA and KSC contractor personnel are invited to attend.

As usual, any questions and/or comments should be sent to *KSC-Engineering-Academy@mail.nasa.gov*. To view future listings, or video/PDF versions of past KEA events, please visit: **http://kea.ksc.nasa.gov**. Please check the Web site for updates as events are subject to change.

■ **Divorce Recovery Support Group Meeting —** The first meeting of the Divorce Recovery Support Group will be held Aug. 19 at 11:30 a.m. in the Occupational Health Facility (M6-495) Library. All employees are welcome – no sign-up required.

For more information, contact Patricia Bell at 861-8647.

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